

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) A blade set according to claim [[1]] 19 wherein each upper reinforcing protrusion extends upwardly and outwardly from the drive notch.
3. (Currently Amended) A blade set according to claim [[1]] 19 wherein ~~the lower surface of the movable blade includes a pair of integrally formed lower reinforcing rims~~, each lower reinforcing rim ~~forming~~ forms a portion of a respective one of the ~~laterally spaced~~ substantially parallel walls.
4. (Currently Amended) A blade set according to claim [[3]] 19 wherein each upper reinforcing protrusion is configured to direct the drive finger toward the drive notch when the drive finger is being drivingly connected to the movable blade.
5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A blade set according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 19 wherein each recessed portion extends outwardly from the respective one of the lower reinforcing rims to a respective one of a pair of sideward edges of the movable blade.

7. (Currently Amended) A blade set according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 19 wherein the lower surface includes first, second, and third portions disposed adjacent a respective one of the recessed portions, wherein the first portion extends forwardly from the respective one of the recessed portions, wherein the second portion extends inwardly from the respective one of the recessed portions, wherein the third portion extends rearwardly from the respective one of the recessed portions, and wherein the first, second, and third portions lie in a single plane.

8. (Original) A blade set according to claim 7, wherein the second portion includes a surface of the respective one of the lower reinforcing rims from which the respective one of the recessed portions extends outwardly.

9. (Original) A blade set according to claim 7, wherein the third portion includes a surface of the respective one of the lower reinforcing rims from which the respective one of the recessed portions extends outwardly.

10. (Currently Amended) A blade set according to claim ~~[[3]]~~ 19 wherein the lower surface of the movable blade includes a substantially planar portion, and wherein each of the lower reinforcing rims forms a portion of the substantially planar portion.

11. (Original) A blade set according to claim 10 wherein the lower surface of the movable blade includes at least one rearward wear surface, wherein the at least one rearward wear surface directly engages the upper surface of the lower blade and spaces at least a portion of the lower surface of the movable blade from the upper surface of the fixed blade, and wherein the at least one rearward wear surface extends downwardly from the planar portion.

12. (Currently Amended) A blade set according to claim [[3]] 19 and further comprising a pair of apertures extending between the upper and lower surfaces of the movable blade, each aperture disposed outwardly from the drive notch.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A blade set according to claim [[13]] 19 wherein each lead-in wall is configured to direct the drive finger toward the drive notch when the drive finger is being drivingly connected to the movable blade.

15. (Currently Amended) A blade set according to claim [[13]] 19 wherein each upper reinforcing protrusion extends upwardly and outwardly from a respective one of the lead-in walls and the respective one of the ~~laterally spaced~~ substantially parallel walls from which the respective one of the lead-in walls extends outwardly and rearwardly.

16. (Currently Amended) A blade set according to claim [[3]] 19 and further comprising a bias member positionable against the upper surface of the movable blade to bias the movable blade against the fixed blade, wherein the movable blade includes a groove extending substantially parallel to the forward edge of the movable blade, and wherein the bias member engages the groove when positioned against the upper surface of the movable blade.

17. (Original) A blade set according to claim 16 wherein the groove includes chamfered ends, and wherein the chamfered ends direct the bias member toward the groove during assembly of the blade set.

18. (Currently Amended) A blade set according to claim [[3]] 19 wherein each of the ~~laterally spaced~~ substantially parallel walls extends in a direction substantially perpendicular to the forward edge of the movable blade.

19. (Original) A blade set for a hair clipper, the hair clipper including a drive mechanism having a drive finger, the blade set comprising:

a fixed lower blade including a forward edge with a series of teeth extending there along, and upper and lower surfaces extending from the forward edge of the fixed blade; and

a movable upper blade constructed of ceramic, the movable blade including

a forward edge with a series of teeth extending there along,

upper and lower surfaces extending from the forward edge of the movable blade, the

upper surface of the movable blade including a pair of integrally formed upper reinforcing

protrusions, the lower surface of the movable blade being supported by the upper surface of the fixed blade and including a pair of integrally formed lower reinforcing rims and a pair of recessed portions, each recessed portion extending outwardly from a respective one of the lower reinforcing rims,

a drive notch sized to receive the drive finger for movement of the forward edge of the movable blade in relation to the forward edge of the fixed blade during operation of the hair clipper, the drive notch including two substantially parallel walls extending between the upper and lower surfaces of the movable blade, each upper reinforcing protrusion being disposed adjacent a respective one of the substantially parallel walls, each lower reinforcing rim forming a portion of a respective one of the substantially parallel walls, and

a pair of lead-in walls extending between the upper and lower surfaces of the movable blade, each lead-in wall extending outwardly and rearwardly from a respective one of the substantially parallel walls to a rearward edge of the movable blade, each upper reinforcing protrusion extending upwardly and outwardly from a respective one of the lead-in walls and the respective one of the substantially parallel walls from which the respective one of the lead-in walls extends outwardly and rearwardly.

20. (Original) A blade set for a hair clipper, the hair clipper including a drive mechanism having a drive finger, the blade set comprising:

a bias member;

a fixed lower blade including a forward edge with a series of teeth extending there along, and upper and lower surfaces extending from the forward edge of the fixed blade; and

a movable upper blade constructed of ceramic, the movable blade including

a forward edge with a series of teeth extending there along,

upper and lower surfaces extending from the forward edge of the movable blade, the upper surface of the movable blade including a pair of integrally formed upper reinforcing protrusions, the lower surface of the movable blade being supported by the upper surface of the fixed blade and including a pair of integrally formed lower reinforcing rims and a pair of recessed portions, each recessed portion extending outwardly from a respective one of the lower reinforcing rims,

a drive notch sized to receive the drive finger for movement of the forward edge of the movable blade in relation to the forward edge of the fixed blade during operation of the hair clipper, the drive notch including two substantially parallel walls extending between the upper and lower surfaces of the movable blade, each upper reinforcing protrusion being disposed adjacent a respective one of the substantially parallel walls, each lower reinforcing rim forming a portion of a respective one of the substantially parallel walls,

a pair of lead-in walls extending between the upper and lower surfaces of the movable blade, each lead-in wall extending outwardly and rearwardly from a respective one of the substantially parallel walls to a rearward edge of the movable blade, each upper reinforcing protrusion extending upwardly and outwardly from a respective one of the lead-in walls and the respective one of the substantially parallel walls from which the respective one of the lead-in walls extends outwardly and rearwardly, and

a groove extending substantially parallel to the forward edge of the movable blade and including chamfered ends, the bias member engaging the groove to bias the movable

blade against the fixed blade when the bias member is positioned against the upper surface of the movable blade, the chamfered ends being configured to direct the bias member toward the groove during assembly of the blade set.